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March 31, 1966

Dear Mr. Ogilvy,

This hasty letter is to confirm what I told your very nice secretary, that when you have the requisite permits and can supply me the numbers for my reports to the government agencies you may have the wild geese. I think you should not plan to get them on April 20 or May 1 for several reasons. You probably will not have the permits by then. You will have to make an extra trip for the ducks. And I may be tied up.

Until now I have been like a man trying to sell century notes for a buck, without takers. It looks like my book is set in England, with major serialization, and the situation in the United States is promising, with a goodd chance that developments may create a demand before I contract. The whole thing is incredible. I have the greatest sensation since the assassination. But you are familiar with these aspects of our national life.

The wild mallards on your farm have the power of flight, which gives them a defense against predators. The Canadas are pinioned. Unless the Mandarins are they may also fly away, as may the woodies. You may want to consider having a vet cut the tendon inside the wings (if they are not already pinioned; I do not now know) before turning them loose. I have put a reservation on a pair of each. I do not yet know the price. All will depend on the crop, for the established breeders are not for sale at any price, as of now.

You secretary has the other answers.

There is something I do every Easter, for no ulterior purpose. I'm telling you about it because there is no sin if someone can derive a benefit from it. This will depend upon the availability of the eggs, for I no longer have any of my own. Goose eggs are always large. Ours ran as heavy as 5/4 lbs, with a long circumference of a foot. I take them, as I have for years, to various childrens' hospitals in Washington and Baltimore, shunning publicity unless it helps the hospitals. Need I tell you how photogenic such eggs are? I believe a friend has put aside several eggs in this general class for me. Can you, or perhaps one of your clients, use them, say in the New York area? There may also be some closer to a half pound. The kids open up when they see such eggs. I usually have a flat cardboard box and a little straw for a nest and a hardboiled standard chicken egg for comparison. With any luck, I'll be in New York again before Easter. As long as some kids are made a little happier, I'm satisfied, as I think you will be, especially if there is a bonus for a client.

When I have confirmation on the ducks I'll write. But the eggs have yet to be laid.

Sincerely,